



## The Signal experience



Mobile satellites provide communications in the desert, while tanks make good platforms for antenna relays to link widespread units.



CPT Todd Hourihan  
Reserve Officers' Training Corps  
University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
Bachelor of science in natural resources  
Signal officer  
Multinational Force and Observers Task Force  
South Camp, Sinai, Egypt

"I was South Camp's signal officer for all countries in the Southern Zone: Italy, Hungary, United States, United Kingdom. This involved a number of challenges. For instance, I provided all combat net radio systems in plain text; installed 134 radios in vehicles or on-site; was in charge of videoteleconferences for morale, plus six Defense Switched Network lines for soldiers' personal calls; established the area's email system, which processed more than 10,000 messages; was in charge of the radio and television station; maintained communications on Egyptian Hip helicopters for a critical resupply mission when our Huey helicopters were grounded; provided computer support for the task force; helped plan the local area and wide area networks for the MFO's southern sector; emplaced a satellite system for cable on all sites; and even set up a communications plan for another unit. It was the type of job that if you do it well, you're doing your job, but if you fail, you're done. But I liked being with the infantry and being on my own. I liked proving myself in the combat units. I also liked going to different countries and seeing the world, and being part of modern history (the ongoing MFO is a result of the Camp David treaty)."



More glimpses of Signal's support of the battlefield: the integrated systems control center provides situation awareness through several information feeds. The ISYSCON is a new, cutting-edge capability, still being experimented with in advanced warfighting experiments at Fort Hood, Texas.



A commo van and antenna can change an empty spot into a communications relay. The Signal Regiment's mobile communications capability can create commo links anywhere in the world.